

CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

for

1952

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area: Land	111,692 acres
Number of Parishes	53
Rateable Value: (1.4.53)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£151,338
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£600
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,614
Estimated mid-year Home Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39,370
Census Population 1951	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38,646

The district is agricultural and the main occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing and jam making.

Birth Rate	15.2
(Corrected)	16.0

Death Rate	10.0
(Corrected)	8.6

Infant Mortality Rate	20.1
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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Capt. F. Johnson.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor H. K. Stroude.

Councillors:

Adams, F.	Hibbett, H.
Allgood, H.	Law, W. H.
Aves, L. H.	Leach, W.
Barker, R.	Macfarlane-Grieve, G. M.
Brown, Mrs. M.	Newton, Maj.-Gen. T. C.
Buchanan, W.	Norman, C. A.
Cairns, Mrs. R. M.	Pease, M. S.
Cheason, Mrs. A. M.	Peel-Yates, Mrs. M.
Clayden, Lt.-Col. H. W.	Robinson, T. B.
Cole, C. W. H.	Tansley, Lady
Cundell, A.	Thulbourn, R. W.
Currington, H. G.	Waddelow, H. G.
Dickerson, A. W.	Walkling, E. J.
Flinders, F. W.	Watson, J. G.
Fry, H. F.	Wilkin, S. W.
Hayhow, A.	Wordingham, S.
Heath, C.	

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Chesterton Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2/53 dated January 22nd 1953 and the information requested follows closely that which was required for 1951.

The general health of the population has remained satisfactory. The birth rate has not altered from last year but the death rate has fallen from 12.3 to 10.0 per thousand population. The infant mortality rate remains at 20.1, the same as last year. It will be seen from the tables that three quarters of the infant deaths take place within the first four weeks of life and it is to this period that attention is being given in an endeavour to eliminate factors prejudicial to survival.

The incidence of infectious disease is discussed later in the report. Scarlet fever was more prevalent than in 1951 but the cases were of a mild nature. Towards the end of the year there was a marked increase in the number of cases of measles. It will be remembered that epidemics of measles generally occur every two years. One case of paratyphoid fever was notified during the year. The origin of the infection was not determined. Five cases of diphtheria occurred in the Fulbourn Mental Hospital, a reminder that this disease is not a thing of the past. Only by maintaining a high degree of immunity in the child population can we hope to prevent outbreaks taking place.

There were fewer cases of dysentery but a slight increase took place in the number of cases of food poisoning (6 in 1951, 10 in 1952); none of these cases was attributable to food prepared or sold in the area. In this connection the area was indirectly affected by the outbreak of food poisoning that occurred in Addenbrooke's Hospital.

In the field of environmental hygiene your officers have again been fully occupied in carrying out the statutory duties imposed on the Council. The activities of the sanitary inspector today differ markedly from those of his early predecessors, 'the inspectors of nuisances'. Much of the work undertaken is of a technical nature. The great increase in latter years in your water and sewerage undertakings is reflected in the larger number of visits recorded in connection with these schemes—33% of the total visits made by the entire staff.

More and more are the general public seeking advice from the department, looking not upon the sanitary inspector as an enforcement officer but as someone who will give assistance and advice.

Although a considerable number of houses has been built annually the figure supplied to me as representing outstanding applications on your housing waiting list does not appear to be falling in parallel. This may be due to people who sought temporary accommodation in caravans now determining that their stay warrants the request of a council house. The need for continued council house development remains, and will remain for some years to come, since it will be necessary for you to consider at a later date a policy for slum clearance, much needed in certain of the larger villages.

Close attention has again been given to safeguarding milk supplies. No tuberculous milk has been found this year but the presence of *Brucella abortus* infection in herds continues to be discovered and presents a difficult administrative and economic problem.

We continue to strive for high standards of cleanliness on food premises. The registration of premises where catering licences are in force would be of the utmost assistance in ensuring that food was prepared and served under hygienic conditions.

The country's financial difficulties were emphasised during the year by the issue of Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 54/52 which stressed the need for economy in local authorities' expenditure on water, sewerage and housing improvement schemes unless such projects were necessary on public health grounds. The effect of this circular has been to postpone a number of your schemes. It is to be hoped that conditions will improve at an early date.

Study of the report will indicate to you the broad nature of the work undertaken. The effect of this work in maintaining and raising the standards of hygiene in the community is often not fully appreciated since it lacks drama and calls to itself little attention. It is therefore a real pleasure to record my thanks to the Chairman and members of the public health committee for the understanding and support they have given me. In turn, to Mr. Newman, chief sanitary inspector, and the two district inspectors my thanks are due for their assistance and loyal support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

P. A. TYSER, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1953.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations.)

Live Births							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	300	274	574
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	10	23
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	313	284	597
Birth rate per thousand estimated population							..	..	15.2
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.05)							..	..	16.0
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)							..	..	15.3
Stillbirths							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	6	18
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	6	19
Rate per thousand live and still births							..	..	30.8
Rate per thousand estimated population							..	..	0.48
Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)							..	..	0.35
Deaths							<i>Male</i> 200	<i>Female</i> 195	<i>Total</i> 395
Death rate per thousand estimated population							..	..	10.0
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.86)							..	..	8.6
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)							..	..	11.3
Infant Mortality. Deaths of infants under one year of age.							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	11 (7)	1 (1)	12 (8)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	1	12 (8)
(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets.)									
Infant Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)							..	..	20.1
Infant Mortality Rate. (England and Wales)							..	..	27.6
Neonatal Mortality Rate. (Infants under four weeks per thousand live births)							..	..	13.4
Legitimate Infant deaths per thousand legitimate live births.							..	..	20.9
Illegitimate Infant deaths per thousand illegitimate live births							..	..	Nil
Maternal Deaths. (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)							..	..	1
Deaths from cancer (all ages)							..	..	78
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)							..	..	7
Pulmonary	..	..	3	Male	4	Female	..	..	7
Non-Pulmonary	..	..	1	Male	1	Female	..	..	2
Deaths from whooping cough							..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles							..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia							..	..	9
Deaths from influenza							..	..	1
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)							..	..	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
*Birth Rate	18.9	17.2	15.2	15.8	15.3	15.2
*Death Rate	13.9	9.8	12.3	10.9	12.3	10.0
Infant Mortality Rate	33.7	18.0	25.1	19.9	20.1	20.1
	(22)	(11)	(14)	(12)	(12)	(12)

* The above rates are uncorrected so that they are comparable from year to year. The figures in brackets are the numbers of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

<i>Ages</i>						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	11	1	12
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	9	3	12
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	9
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	4	8	12
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	11	9	20
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	23	18	41
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	48	44	92
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	88	105	193
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	200	195	395

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

“The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order, 1951” provides for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils.

Under the present arrangements this officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Sanitary Inspectors

There has been no alteration in the staff since last year. The establishment of three whole time inspectors has remained unaltered for 17 years.

E. B. NEWMAN, A.M.I.S.E., F.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
 N. D. ADDISON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.
 E. V. BEEBY, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertakes bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

Hospitals

Cases of infectious disease are treated at the Isolation Hospital, Cambridge. So far as general hospitals are concerned, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, deals with the majority of cases from this area. The only hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of tuberculosis in connection with the Papworth Village Settlement.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1952

There have been no major epidemics. One case of paratyphoid fever and five cases of diphtheria were recorded.

Paratyphoid Fever

A child aged five was found to be suffering from this illness. He made an uninterrupted recovery. No other member of the family was affected and exhaustive enquiries and investigations failed to reveal the source of the infection.

Diphtheria

On the 1st of January 1952 a patient at the Fulbourn Mental Hospital was notified as suffering from diphtheria. He was isolated and his ward contacts quarantined. Nose and throat swabs were taken from the patient and staff contacts and immunisation was offered to the staff.

From the first swabbing, another patient, who slept in the bed next to the first case, was found to be a nasal carrier and also to have a diphtheritic sore on his left ear. Daily inspection of throats of contacts was carried out by the medical staff of the hospital. A suspicious throat was swabbed on January 6th and diphtheria organisms found. Further routine swabbing on January 8th elicited another case whose nose was also infected. Routine swabs of contacts and cases were again taken on January 10th and all proved negative except in the last case detected. Routine swabs taken on January 14th all proved negative. Ward contacts were freed from quarantine on January 16th. Subsequently, on February 12th, a further case was discovered and an intensive search made for the source of infection but with no success. No further cases occurred.

It has not been possible to determine the origin of this small outbreak. No case of diphtheria has occurred in the hospital for over twenty years. All possible methods by which the organism could have been introduced were explored, including visitors and other means of introduction from without, but with no satisfactory conclusions. It is likely that the first case was infected by the second. The other two cases were ward contacts but slept in different dormitories and sat at different tables for meals.

The first case had complained of a sore throat for some weeks and repeated swabbing had shown the presence of haemolytic streptococci.

Scarlet Fever

Thirty four cases were notified as against 21 in the previous year. Generally the cases were very mild.

Measles

In 1951, an epidemic year, 723 cases were notified. This year only 59 cases occurred, the majority falling into the last two months of the year.

Acute Pneumonia

17 cases were notified this year as against 48 in 1951.

Whooping Cough

The incidence of this disease was only slightly less than in the previous year, 131 cases against 171 in 1951.

Dysentery

Of the 21 cases of dysentery, 19 occurred in Fulbourn Mental Hospital and were spread over the year. The causal organism was *Shigella flexneri* which has given rise to cases in the hospital from time to time over the years. The other two cases were unconnected and due to *Shigella sonnei*.

Food Poisoning

Salmonella typhi murium was responsible for illness in seven instances, in the other three cases no organism was recovered. Of the seven sporadic cases the origin of the infection was detected in only one person, a farm worker, who had handled broken duck eggs. He had an acute illness. His wife and two of his children, who had assisted him, were found to be positive excretors, suffering no symptoms. Examination of the ducks showed that they were infected with the same phage type as that recovered from the farm worker and his family. Precautions were taken to prevent further spread from this source.

During the year there was a large outbreak of *Salmonella typhi murium* infection at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge. The district was affected indirectly by reason of the necessity for the hospital to discharge to their homes patients who were infected. By arrangement with the hospital no such case was discharged until the home circumstances had been investigated to ensure that there would be no danger of spread in the community. If there was any possibility of this the hospital retained the patient until he or she could be considered free from infection. This had its reward in the fact that no spread took place in the district from positive cases discharged to their homes. With the co-operation of the family doctors and the patients, stool examinations were continued after discharge until three consecutive negative specimens were obtained. For anyone remotely connected with food trades or food preparation, six consecutive negatives were required. Twenty cases still excreting the organism were permitted to return to their homes. In all these instances careful instructions in personal hygiene and disposal of excreta were given to the families and patients concerned. I wish to express my gratitude to them for their help.

Acute Poliomyelitis

There was no outbreak during the year. Only 4 cases were notified.

Encephalitis

Two cases of post infective encephalitis occurred, one following glandular fever (girl aged 19) the other after mumps (man aged 24).

Undulant Fever

This illness, caused by brucella infection, is not notifiable. Three cases came to my notice during the year. Infection is usually the result of drinking milk containing brucella organisms. Only in one case was there evidence that the patient had been exposed to this risk; the milk supply to her college being infected with the organism of *Brucella abortus*. The college was advised to obtain a pasteurised supply.

In addition to the formal notifications received from medical practitioners under Section 144 of the Public Health Act, 1936, there has been a system in force for some years whereby I receive informal notifications from head teachers of cases of infectious disease occurring amongst schoolchildren. I therefore obtain some information with regard to the prevalence of non-notifiable diseases such as mumps, german measles and chicken pox for example.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS 1952

Age in Years	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute	Poliomyelitis	Measles	Paratyphoid	Totals
				Paralytic	Non-Paralytic			
Under 1	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	9
1—2	—	5	25	—	—	7	—	37
3—4	—	11	27	1	—	7	—	46
5—9	—	14	62	—	—	41	1	118
10—14	—	1	5	—	—	3	—	9
15—24	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	4
25 and over	5	2	3	1	—	—	—	11
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	34	131	3	1	59	1	234
1951 Totals	—	21	171	1		723	—	916

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5	3	—	—	2	—	—	5
5—14	2	2	—	3	—	—	7
15—44	4	5	2	4	3	—	18
45—64	5	10	—	1	—	—	16
65 and over	2	4	1	—	—	—	7
Age Unknown	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	17	21	3	10	3	—	54
1951 Totals	48	72	4	6	2	1	133

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH Annual case incidence and deaths 1942—1952												
YEARS												
DISEASE	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	TOTAL	1952
<i>Measles</i>												
Cases	25	108	114	246	177	338	225	493	76	723	2,525	59
Deaths	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
<i>Whooping cough</i>												
Cases	56	38	55	54	19	90	80	84	81	171	728	131
Deaths	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—

TUBERCULOSIS

38 cases (20 male and 18 female) were notified for the first time during the year, four more than in 1951. 36 cases, previously notified in other areas, transferred to this district. One pulmonary case and two non-pulmonary cases were discovered from scrutiny of the death returns; investigation revealed that they had not previously been notified. On balance, at the end of the year, the number of persons on the pulmonary and non pulmonary registers had increased by 40 and 1 respectively.

On May 1st 'The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1952' came into operation. They revoked and replaced the 1930 Regulations but the requirements about notification itself remains unaltered. Although in the present structure of the health services the major onus for prevention of this disease rests with the local health authorities and the chest physicians there are important environmental duties still remaining to local sanitary authorities, particularly with regard to housing and examination of milk supplies. Furthermore, it must not be lost sight of that pulmonary tuberculosis is an infectious disease and as such its control is primarily a matter for the medical officer of health of the sanitary authority.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1952

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of cases on register at commencement of year	143	109	29	42	172	151
2. Number of cases notified for first time during the year under regulations	16	13	4	5	20	18
3. Cases restored to register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to register otherwise than by notification under regulations						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	17	14	—	5	17	19
(b) From Death Returns	1	—	1	1	2	1
5. Number of cases removed from register	10	11	4	11	14	22
6. Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	167	125	30	42	197	167

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.52

AGE GROUP	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	<i>Pul.</i>	<i>Non Pul.</i>	<i>Pul.</i>	<i>Non Pul.</i>	<i>Pul.</i>	<i>Non Pul.</i>	
0—15	7	6	4	6	11	12	23
15—25	9	4	19	16	28	20	48
25—35	41	2	35	6	76	8	84
35—45	34	4	32	6	66	10	76
45—55	34	10	21	5	55	15	70
55—65	26	3	6	3	32	6	38
65 and over	16	1	8	—	24	1	25
TOTALS	167	30	125	42	292	72	364

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

No action was necessary under this section during the year. Difficulties in obtaining admission to both Part III and chronic sick accommodation are experienced from time to time. During the year the County Council was approached with the suggestion that a meeting of all concerned with the welfare of old people might provide a means of achieving a better integration and use of existing services.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 50

No action was necessary under this section.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of inspections carried out during 1952:—

General Sanitation

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED	6,003
Miscellaneous visits re complaints, etc.	581
Visits re drainage or sewerage	1,149
Water supplies	846
Water samples taken	370
Factories Acts	228
Visits re verminous persons or property	40
Public cleansing visits	484
Shops Acts, etc.	114
River pollution	3
Schools	170
Burial grounds	9
Civil defence	7
Rag Flock Acts	—
Pet shops	8

Inspection of Food and Food Premises

Visits re sampling (milk and other foods)	463
Visits to slaughter houses	48
Butchers shops	110
Preserved Food Premises:—	
(1) Sausage Manufacturers	78
(2) Fried Fish Shops	26
(3) Tripe Boiler	4
Ice Cream Premises (Retailers)	135
Cafes and Restaurants	128
Other Food Premises	220
Bakehouses	59
Retail Dairies	45
Licensed Premises (Public Houses, etc.)	152

Housing

Housing inspections (P.H.A. 1936)	10
Reinspections	84
Housing inspections (Housing Acts)	143
Reinspections	69
Moveable Dwellings	207

Infectious Diseases

Visits and Enquiries	225
Disinfections	19

HOUSING

1. Total number of houses erected by the Council between 1920 and 1939 1,320

2. Post War Housing Progress

	<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Non-Traditional</i>	<i>Prefabs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Houses completed in 1946	18	—	5	23
“ “ “ 1947	52	16	45	113
“ “ “ 1948	77	10	—	87
“ “ “ 1949	21	70	—	91
“ “ “ 1950	115	—	—	115
“ “ “ 1951	133	—	—	133
“ “ “ 1952	106	—	—	106
	<hr/> 522	<hr/> 96	<hr/> 50	<hr/> 668

These figures are exclusive of conversions into flats and conversions of hutted dwellings.

Total number of dwellings completed up to 31st March, 1953.

Prefabricated bungalows	50
Bungalows	42
Flats	9
Swedish and Airey Houses	96
Hut conversions	225
Permanent houses	507
	<hr/> 929

Permanent houses in course of erection or contracts drawn up	..	..	..	180
Conversion of huts into temporary dwellings (ten years) in hand	..	..	..	Nil
Conversion of huts into temporary dwellings (five years) in hand	..	..	..	Nil

3. Number of houses built during the year by private enterprise.

Permanent 57, Temporary 1, Prefabs Nil, Conversions (units) 5.

4. Summary of action taken under the Housing Acts during the year:—

Houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	153
Reinspections made	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	156
Demolition Orders made	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Undertakings (Section 11 (3)) accepted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Undertakings (Section 11 (3)) cancelled	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Houses made fit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43

Since the passing of Housing Act, 1930 the following action has been taken:—

Demolition orders not yet complied with	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	419
Houses demolished (voluntarily)	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Houses in respect of which undertakings under Section 11 (3) Housing Act, 1936 have been accepted	..	..	..	..	..	..	74
Houses (or parts) closed	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Houses made fit by formal action	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Houses made fit by informal action	..	..	..	..	..	..	709

NOTE:—These figures are totals up to 31st December, 1952.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949)

Since the introduction of the Act the following action has been taken:—

Total applications for grants received..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Total applications approved ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Number of dwellings involved ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Total cost of approved work ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£5,757
Total amount of granted involved ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,852
Total applications disapproved ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Although the Council has erected nearly 2,000 houses and converted 225 hutments for occupation there is still a formidable list of applicants awaiting accommodation. The revised list may be summarised as follows:—

Families in lodgings (no separate houses)	..	..	..	..	..	..	410
Families in separate houses but under Notice Court Order or being in unfit accommodation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	819
Total (31.3.53)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1229*

* This total includes 254 agricultural workers.

Requisitioning

At the 31st March, 1953, 31 properties were retained by the Council on Requisitioning Orders, providing accommodation for 33 family units.

Temporary Hutments

The total number of hutments taken over by the Council and adapted for temporary occupation was 225 in 1946 (many of which were already occupied by squatters). As a result of detailed surveys carried out by the department the Council has agreed to clear one site (Waterbeach—11 huts) and to provide for the systematic elimination of the hutments at Bourn (110 hutments). None will be relet as they become vacant. 29 have already been demolished.

Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites

With the easing of the housing position and more houses becoming available for purchase, the caravan problem is no longer so acute. The demand for sites is diminishing. The provision of 2 sites at Great Shelford for a total of 40 residential caravans has made a substantial contribution in this respect and, it is hoped, will lead to the gradual elimination of the more undesirable sites.

The seasonal influx of caravan dwellers for fruit picking and agricultural work is steadily decreasing and may eventually disappear. In any case, their stay is of short duration and presents no real problem. Supervision from a public health point of view is often rendered difficult due to the isolated sites chosen by these persons.

The following figures indicate the position at 31st December, 1952 :—

Number of licences issued during the year for individual caravans ..	..	41
Number refused ..	..	2
Number of new site licences issued ..	..	3
Vehicles involved ..	..	44
Number of site licences refused ..	..	1
Total number of individual caravan licences in force at 31st December, 1952 ..	..	126
Total number of site licences in force at 31st December, 1952. ..	..	13
Total vehicles involved ..	..	107
Total number of visits paid ..	..	207
Site improvements carried out. ..	..	5
New or improved sanitary accommodation ..	..	2
Mains water or electricity laid on ..	..	2

**POST WAR HOUSING
PARISH ALLOCATION**

(Houses under contract or work commenced 31.3.53)

Parish	Permanent Construction				Temporary Accommodation	
	Allocated		Completed		Allocated	Completed
	Houses	Bungalows and Flats	Houses	Bungalows and Flats	Huts and Prefabs etc.	Huts and Prefabs etc.
Barton	6	—	6	—	—	—
Bourn	—	—	—	—	110	110
Boxworth	4	—	4	—	—	—
Caxton	19	10	7	4	—	—
Comberton	4	—	4	—	—	—
Conington	8	—	8	—	—	—
Coton	50	3	50	3	—	—
Cottenham	44	4	44	4	22	22
Croxton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Dry Drayton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Elsworth	12	—	12	—	—	—
Eltisley	9	—	9	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Fen Drayton	16	—	16	—	—	—
Fulbourn	16	—	16	—	10	10
Girton	59	10	59	10	—	—
Grantchester	6	—	6	—	—	—
Graveley	8	—	8	—	14	14
Harlton	7	—	7	—	—	—
Harston	60	8	20	—	—	—
Haslingfield	6	4	6	4	—	—
Histon	22	—	22	—	—	—
Impington	36	2	22	—	10	10
Knapwell	6	—	6	—	—	—
Landbeach	14	2	8	—	—	—
Lolworth	8	—	4	—	—	—
Longstanton A.S.	26	9	14	3	26	26
Madingley	8	—	8	—	—	—
Milton	28	—	28	—	—	—
Newton	4	—	4	—	—	—
Oakington	24	11	12	2	10	10
Over	10	5	8	—	—	—
Rampton	11	—	5	—	—	—
Great Shelford	12	—	12	—	10	10
Little Shelford	18	—	18	—	—	—
Stapleford	10	—	10	—	—	—
Stow-cum-Quy	—	—	—	—	52	52
Swavesey	26	6	26	6	—	—
Teversham	12	—	12	—	—	—
Toft	12	—	8	—	—	—
Waterbeach	43	8	21	—	11	11
Great Wilbraham	8	—	8	—	—	—
Willingham	41	15	41	15	—	—
Totals	737	97	603	51	275	275

WATER SUPPLY

As reported last year, a mains supply has now been provided in all the parishes in the district. Small mains extensions are in hand at Newton and Harston and tenders are about to be invited for an agricultural scheme to supply certain fen areas, notably North Fen and Smithy Fen, Cottenham. During the year the distribution of mains water throughout Papworth Village Settlement was taken over by the Council (previously a bulk supply to the Settlement). It is interesting to note that the Council now owns over 100 miles of water mains. A direct labour scheme is in operation for the maintenance of, and connections to, water mains and for waste detection.

The survey of parishes has continued where new mains have been laid recently with a view to encouraging the connection of all properties where no satisfactory alternative supply is available. The percentage of properties now taking a supply reflects the success of this work. It is noteworthy that 86.5% of all dwellings in the area now take a supply from the mains. (78% in 1950 and 82.5% in 1951). Public standpipe supplies have been eliminated except in a few special instances. Difficulty is still experienced in implementing the provisions of Section 30 of the Water Act, 1945 (taking water into houses) especially in the case of small cottage properties of low rateable value, and external taps for not more than 2 properties have been accepted.

Sufficiency of Supply

During the summer months the position gave cause for some anxiety in that area supplied by the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board as the daily demand approached the maximum available to the Council from this source. The scheme for supplementing this supply from an R.A.F. bore at Lordsbridge, Harlton is out to tender and a scheme is in hand for taking a bulk supply from the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company. In addition the detection of waste and mains leakage has been actively pursued. An improvement in the present position can therefore be anticipated in the near future. The Council has reduced the carting of water to 3 isolated areas comprising 8 dwellings, one public house and a cafe. In these cases mains extensions are not possible at a reasonable cost. The poor pressures experienced at Eltisley, Croxton, Swavesey and Longstanton have been improved.

Chlorination

All public supplies are now chlorinated with the exception of the Council's works at Harston (supplying less than 1,500 population). A scheme is being prepared to treat this supply.

Willingham Water Company

This supply which caused some anxiety in 1951 has been substantially improved by the installation of a temporary drip feed chlorinator and the cleaning out and covering of the elevated storage tank pending the completion of negotiations for the purchase of the concern by the Council.

PIPED WATER SUPPLIES AT 31.3.53

PARISH	Estimated Population 1948 (Planning)	Statutory Authority	No. of Dwellings (Rate Books) 31.3.53	No. of Dwellings taking Supply (Rated)	% of Dwellings at 31.3.53
Barton	461	C.R.D.C.	190	125	65%
Bourn	705	C.R.D.C.	335	313	93%
Boxworth	150	C.R.D.C.	65	62	95%
Caldecote	348	C.R.D.C.	135	124	92%
Caxton	383	C.R.D.C.	104	96	92%
Childerley	15	C.R.D.C.	7	6	85%
Comberton	640	C.R.D.C.	196	150	76%
Conington	177	C.R.D.C.	41	38	92%
Coton	403	C.W.W.	173	153	88%
Cottenham	2,538	C.R.D.C.	886	845	95%
Croxton	184	C.R.D.C.	65	58	89%
Dry Drayton	356	C.R.D.C.	125	102	82%
Elsworth	464	C.R.D.C.	157	144	91%
Eltisley	294	C.R.D.C.	96	93	97%
Fen Ditton	505	C.W.W.	199	130	65%
Fen Drayton	406	C.R.D.C.	141	72	51%
Fulbourn	2,404	C.W.W.	459	382	83%
Girton	2,139	C.W.W.	642	601	93%
Grantchester	479	C.W.W.	172	169	98%
Graveley	158	C.R.D.C.	68	58	85%
Hardwick	455	C.R.D.C.	156	114	73%
Harlton	304	C.R.D.C.	82	60	73%
Harston	893	C.R.D.C.	307	283	92%
Haslingfield	909	C.R.D.C.	214	148	69%
Hauxton	325	C.R.D.C.	123	109	88%
Histon	2,415	C.W.W.	846	1,188	91%
Horningsea	318	C.R.D.C.	110	91	82%
Impington	1,221	C.W.W.	448	(with Histon)	91%
Knapwell	93	C.R.D.C.	36	36	100%
Landbeach	506	C.R.D.C.	203	149	73%
Lolworth	104	C.R.D.C.	35	22	63%
Longstanton A.S.	425	C.R.D.C.	133	116	87%
Longstanton S.M.	77	C.R.D.C.	45	38	84%
Madingley	169	C.W.W.	71	61	85%
Milton	683	C.W.W.	236	186	79%
Newton	392	C.R.D.C.	95	43	45%
Oakington	572	C.R.D.C.	170	159	93%
Over	856	C.R.D.C.	342	284	83%
Papworth Everard	1,264	C.R.D.C.	249	244	98%
Papworth St. Agnes	82	C.R.D.C.	30	25	83%
Rampton	226	C.R.D.C.	76	69	90%
Great Shelford	2,346	C.W.W.	772	736	91%
Little Shelford	552	C.W.W.	192	155	79%
Stapleford	902	C.W.W.	282	236	83%
Stow-cum-Quy	475	C.R.D.C.	161	138	85%
Swavesey	814	C.R.D.C.	313	284	90%
Teversham	505	C.W.W.	151	107	71%
Toft	199	C.R.D.C.	83	69	83%
Waterbeach	1,640	C.R.D.C.	495	384	77%
Westwick	37	C.R.D.C.	14	14	100%
Great Wilbraham	422	C.W.W.	146	113	70%
Little Wilbraham	330	C.R.D.C.	101	80	80%
Willingham	1,700	W.W.W.	641	595	92%
Totals	35,420*		11,614	10,047	86.5%

C.R.D.C. Chesterton Rural District Council.

C.W.W. Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company.

W.W.W. Willingham Water Company

* 1951 Census population 38,646.

Sampling

All public supplies are sampled at least monthly for bacteriological examination and full chemical and bacteriological reports are made quarterly. The chemical analyses made this year show little variation from those set out in detail in the Report for 1950. The unsatisfactory samples from the mains at Fen Drayton (6) and Swavesey (10) were taken during the clearing up of the trouble reported in 1951, due to disturbance of the mains occasioned by the construction of a new highway bridge. The results from the Willingham Water Company's supply show considerable improvement as a result of the measures already referred to. The remaining unsatisfactory samples were mostly due to minor bacterial contamination of standpipes and taps or disturbance of mains due to tappings, etc. It will be observed that the public supplies in all villages were sampled during the year regardless of the source of supply. The coverage so afforded enables any accidental contamination of the mains to be quickly revealed and remedied.

Where private supplies were found to be unsatisfactory steps have been taken to improve the supply or secure an alternative source. Wherever possible connection to the mains has been required.

WATER SAMPLING YEAR ENDING 31.12.52

Parish	Public Supplies		Private Supplies	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Barton	2	—	—	—
Bourn	2	—	—	—
Boxworth	1	—	—	—
Caldecote	1	1	—	1
Caxton	4	2	—	—
Childerley	3	—	—	—
Comberton	1	—	—	—
Conington	1	—	—	—
Coton	1	—	1	3
Cottenham	22	2	1	3
Croxton	1	—	—	—
Dry Drayton	2	—	—	—
Elsworth	—	1	—	—
Eltisley	5	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	1	—	—	—
Fen Drayton	8	6	18	2
Fulbourn	1	—	2	—
Girton	7	—	—	3
Graveley	17	5	—	—
Hardwick	1	—	—	—
Harlton	2	—	—	1
Harston	10	1	—	—
Haslingfield	3	—	—	1
Hauxton	2	—	1	2
Histon	6	—	—	1
Horningsea	1	—	—	—
Impington	1	—	—	—
Knapwell	1	—	—	—
Landbeach	8	—	—	—
Lolworth	1	—	—	—
Longstanton A.S.	1	—	—	—
Madingley	1	—	—	—
Milton	4	—	—	—
Newton	1	—	1	4
Oakington	4	—	—	—
Over	28	1	—	—
Papworth Everard	5	1	—	—
Papworth St. Agnes	4	1	—	—
Rampton	1	—	—	—
Great Shelford	1	—	5	1
Stow-cum-Quy	5	—	—	—
Swavesey	32	10	—	1
Teversham	1	—	—	—
Toft	10	1	—	—
Waterbeach	8	1	—	1
Great Wilbraham	1	—	—	—
Little Wilbraham	1	—	2	1
Willingham	49	5	—	1
Council's Tanker	—	2	—	—
Totals	273	40	31	26

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT

Total number of visits made re water supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	846
Total samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	370
Samples reported fit									
(a) Public supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	273
(b) Private well, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Samples reported unfit									
(a) Private supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
(b) Private wells, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Water supplies to houses improved as a result of action by the department (excluding mains extensions)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The department remains responsible for public cleansing. Refuse from each of the 53 parishes is collected not less frequently than once per month. No alterations have been made in the collection schedules during the year which provide for a weekly collection from the semi-urban parishes (31%) a fortnightly collection from five other parishes (10%) and a monthly collection from the remainder (59%).

The present schedules are as follows:—

Weekly	Houses	Fortnightly	Houses
Girton	642	Fen Ditton	199
Harston	307	Landbeach	203
Hauxton	123	Milton	236
Histon	846	Newton	95
Impington	448	Waterbeach	495
Great Shelford	772		
Lt. Shelford	192		
Stapleford	282		
8 parishes	3,612 (31%)	5 parishes	1,228 (10%)

Monthly	Houses	Monthly	Houses	Monthly	Houses
Barton	190	Fen Drayton	141	Over	342
Bourn	335	Fulbourn	459	Papworth	
Boxworth	65	Grantchester	172	Everard	249
Caldecote	135	Graveley	68	Papworth	
Caxton	104	Hardwick	156	St. Agnes	30
Childerley	7	Harlton	82	Rampton	76
Comberton	196	Haslingfield	214	Stow-cum-Quy	161
Conington	41	Horningssea	110	Swavesey	313
Coton	173	Knapwell	36	Teversham	151
Cottenham	886	Lolworth	35	Toft	83
Croxton	65	Longstanton A.S.	133	Westwick	14
Dry Drayton	125	Longstanton S.M.	45	Gt. Wilbraham	146
Elsworth	157	Madingley	71	Lt. Wilbraham	101
Eltisley	96	Oakington	170	Willingham	641
40 parishes 6,774 houses (59%)					

The collection of night soil is also undertaken as follows:—

Weekly	Houses
Waterbeach	350
Grantchester (part)	50
2 parishes	400 houses

In addition to the service provided by the Council a private firm of contractors undertakes, in conjunction with the department, a bucket emptying scheme for private dwellings throughout the district for the nominal charge of 1/- per clearance. By these means a service is available for all householders in the area wishing to participate.

The provision of a comprehensive refuse collection service for 53 villages covering 174 square miles is no easy task but excellent progress has been made since its inception in 1945. The point has now been reached when little improvement can be effected without substantial increase in costs. The current rate equivalent for refuse collection is 11½d. and is only maintained at this figure by the co-operation of householders in accepting a curbside collection.

The fleet comprises three Karrier Bantams (7 cu. yd.) vehicles. One 12 cu. yd. Karrier C.K.3 side loading vehicle, and one 12/15 cu. yd. Karrier C.K.3 moving floor vehicle. The three Bantams are now 7/8 years old and it is hoped to replace at least two of them next year with a new 15 cu. yd. fore and aft tipping vehicle.

As will be seen from the summary, the refuse vehicles have travelled approximately 45,000 miles and over 5,000 tons of refuse have been collected and disposed of.

The large area to be covered and the long hauls involved render the service a costly one, and whilst improvement in the frequency of collections is very desirable it cannot be effected without very substantial increase in cost. The Council continues to operate contracts for the collection of refuse from two permanent R.A.F. stations.

The labour position is somewhat difficult since the service cannot afford to carry any surplus for use in the case of sickness or emergency and none is available from any other source. Fortunately the sickness rate has been quite low during the year having regard to the average age of the men. Vehicle maintenance has been extremely difficult due to the improvised workshop facilities available and the transfer to the Council's new depot (now under construction) should result in a great improvement in this respect.

Stocks of B.S.S. dustbins are held for resale to the public at cost price and arrangements have been made with the Council's Architect to supply bins to all new Council properties as they are completed.

Disposal

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping and five tips are in use at Cottenham, Hauxton, Landbeach, Fulbourn and Fen Drayton. In the main, these are shallow gravel workings with several disadvantages such as the absence of suitable covering material and the difficulty in securing the exclusive use and control of the sites. The problem of finding suitable tips is becoming more acute especially in a flat district such as this, where the normal subsoil water level is often no more than 3 or 4 feet below the surface. The time is approaching when the known available sites will become exhausted and refuse may have to be transported much further afield. With this in mind the policy is to build up a fleet of larger capacity vehicles which can cover the long hauls economically.

Bulldozers have been hired from time to time to level off and cover the exposed surfaces of the tips but this is an expensive procedure more especially as all covering material has to be transported to the sites. It is hoped to acquire a Fordson tractor with a Muledozer blade attachment in the new year which will enable more regular attention to be given to the tips at less cost.

The tips are now in better condition than at any time in the past and under the constant supervision of the department's Pests Officer, who undertakes regular survey and treatment for rat destruction. Less trouble was experienced in 1952 with regard to firing of the tips although this is a constant hazard in the Summer months due to unauthorised tipping.

No labour is permanently employed on the tips.

Cesspool Emptying

The Council undertakes the casual clearance of private cesspools at a nominal charge to householders. Two 700 gallon Karrier Yorkshire vehicles are employed full time on this work together with the desludging of small housing site sewage disposal plants and the cleansing of village drains and catchpits. Both vehicles are adapted for the collection of night soil. The service remains the cheapest available in the area, although of course it is subsidised to some extent from the rates. The demand is heavy and the amount of work required directly by the council is increasing. As the new sewers come into use in the semi-urban parishes it is hoped that the necessity for this service will diminish.

Disposal of cesspool contents is a problem, being effected at the larger sewage disposal plants owned by the Council, together with the seasonal use of agricultural land where suitable. The mileage involved is often heavy and increases the cost of the work. It is hoped that the difficulty of disposal will be facilitated when the new sewers are available.

Collection of Salvage

As reported previously, collections of waste paper were resumed in 1951 under a long term contract with London merchants guaranteeing a minimum price of £6 10s. 0d. per ton. However, towards the end of 1952 so much paper was held in stock by the mills that the price fell steeply and by February 1953 our merchants could not offer more than £5 per ton which was an uneconomical figure. As no reasonable prospect of an improvement in the market could be foreseen, collections were once again discontinued. Should the recovery of waste paper again become of National importance it will be extremely difficult to enlist the support of the public, having regard to the unhappy experiences of June 1949 and February 1953.

During the year ending 31st March, 1953 the following amount of paper (all grades) was collected and disposed of:—

29 tons 19 cwt. 2 qtrs. valued at £187 1s. 10½d.

(This amount would have been worth over £600 in 1951/2).

An incentive bonus of 10% of the gross value was paid to the cleansing staff.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CLEANSING WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 1953

House Refuse

Total mileage travelled (5 vehicles)	..	..	..	..	..	44,248 miles
Cost of vehicles per mile	..	..	..	..	..	14.9 pence
Estimated refuse removed and disposed of	..	..	..	..	..	5,269 tons
Estimated cost per ton (collection and disposal)	..	..	..	..	..	£1 10 0
Estimated cost per ton (after deduction of income etc.)	..	..	..	..	..	£1 6 11
Estimated number of clearances	..	..	..	..	..	297,428 clearances
Average cost per clearance	..	..	..	..	..	5.7 pence
Estimated average mileage per ton	..	..	..	..	..	8.4 miles
Estimated mileage per gallon (5 vehicles)	..	..	..	..	..	8.9 m.p.g.
Estimated annual cost per 1,000 dwellings (gross)	..	..	..	..	..	£680 11 10
Estimated annual cost per 1,000 dwellings (net)	..	..	..	..	..	£611 18 9
Estimated annual cost per 1,000 population (gross)	..	..	..	..	..	£204 10 7½
Estimated annual cost per 1,000 population (net)	..	..	..	..	..	£183 18 1

Remarks

The mileage travelled and tonnage of refuse shows very little variation. All costs are increased as is only to be expected and reference to last year's figure shows over £200 increase for petrol alone. (The average cost of petrol to the Council for the year increased from 41.9d. to 50.78d. i.e. 9d. per gallon.) Labour costs in wages and insurances show over £400 increase for the same number of men. The maintenance of tips (£273 10s. 5d.) is higher than previous years and is accounted for by the hiring of bulldozers which will not re-occur.

Repair and maintenance of vehicles shows an increase of over £100, mostly accounted for by additional cost of oils, tyres, etc., and is not unreasonable having regard to the increasing age of the vehicles.

The cost per mile shows an increase (from 12.76 pence to 14.9 pence) and the cost per ton for collection and disposal shows an increase from £1 6s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to £1 10s. 0d. per ton (gross).

If the factors beyond our control are disregarded (i.e. increase in cost of petrol and labour and reduction in value of salvage, which together account for over £1,350), the results achieved during the year are not unsatisfactory, having regard to the large area served, the long hauls involved and the age of the vehicles.

Cesspool Emptying

Actual mileage travelled (2 vehicles)	..	..	..	..	..	21,898 miles
Estimated cost per mile	..	..	..	..	..	18.08 pence
Number of clearances made	..	..	..	..	..	1,094 clearances
Estimated cost per clearance	..	..	..	..	..	£2 19 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Estimated number of loads disposed of	..	..	..	..	..	1,647 loads
Estimated cost per load (collection and disposal)	..	..	..	..	..	£1 19 3 $\frac{1}{2}$

Remarks

The total cost of the service shows only a slight increase during the year from £3,084 15s. 2d. to £3,234 9s. 7d. which is almost entirely accounted for by the increase in cost of petrol and labour, together amounting to over £200. The income from re-chargeable works shows a slight increase. The net annual deficiency charged to the general rate is £1,027 5s. 1d. (i.e. approximately 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate). The actual cost per clearance is 59/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. as against 57/5 last year, and the actual cost per load 39/3 $\frac{1}{2}$ as against 37/9. The Council's charges for private dwellings are 35/- minimum charge (1 load) and 50/- for 2 loads, and any substantial increase would render the cost of this essential service prohibitive. As far as one can foresee therefore, the service cannot become entirely self supporting, and must continue to be subsidised to some extent.

Night Soil Collection

Total number of bucket clearances	..	..	..	..	..	17,553 clearances
Estimated cost per bucket clearance	..	..	..	..	..	2.97 pence
Contract price per bucket clearance	..	..	..	..	..	9d.—1/-

Remarks

With effect from 1st June, 1952 the practice of employing outside labour for this work was discontinued, and the work undertaken by the staff. The success of this economy is reflected in the figures which show a saving on the year of approximately £130 and has reduced the cost per clearance from 4.8 pence to 2.97 pence. This figure compares most favourably with charges made by private contractors (varying between 9d. and 1/-).

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools in the area although much bathing takes place in the River Cam, above and below Cambridge. The industrial development upstream at Sawston and Hauxton gives rise to some concern in this respect but no deterioration in the condition of the river has been observed during the year. The City authorities have a scheme in hand for the substantial alteration and improvement of the sewage disposal works at Milton, the effluent from which discharges into the river below Cambridge. The prevention of river pollution is now the responsibility of the new River Board.

SHOPS ACTS

There are very few shops in the area employing large staff, and the majority are small family concerns, the premises being in conjunction with private dwelling houses. In these circumstances little difficulty is experienced in securing compliance with the requirements of the Acts, and a somewhat liberal interpretation of the provisions is permissible. Apart from the routine visits to food shops reported elsewhere the following inspections were made and improvements effected during the year:—

Total number of shops (all categories) on register	..	..	..	..	..	308
Inspections made	..	..	..	..	..	114
Mains water laid on	..	..	..	..	..	2
Improved washing facilities	..	..	..	..	..	3
Redecoration or cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	6
Improved lighting	..	..	..	..	..	1
Improved fittings, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	3
Structural repairs, extensions, new floors, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	6

VERMINOUS PERSONS AND PREMISES

Little action has been necessary during the year. The following is a summary:—

Visits and enquiries re verminous premises or persons	..	..	..	..	40
Premises treated for					
(a) Fleas	..	..	..	..	6
(b) Flies	..	..	..	..	2
(c) Other vermin	..	..	..	..	5
Persons removed to hospital for cleansing	..	..	..	..	Nil

Facilities are available at the County Hospital for the disinfection of bedding and articles not capable of treatment on the spot. The various fumigants containing D.D.T. and Gammexane, available to the public have undoubtedly reduced the demands made on the department for service. No case of bug infestation was met with during the year.

DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

A summary of the work of the department is as follows:—

Visits in connection with drainage	..	..	..	..	..	1,149
House drains new or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	135
Closet accommodation new, repaired or improved	..	..	..	..	..	63

Work in connection with the inspection and testing of all new drainage, drainage alterations, or repairs to existing properties, as will be seen from the above figures, has occupied a high proportion of the inspectors' time and will become even more arduous as the new sewers become available for connection. This duty has many advantages since it affords the officers first hand knowledge of private drainage systems in the area and creates good liaison with local builders—the majority of whom seek advice from the inspectors before the execution of any work. This procedure is welcomed and ensures that effective systems are installed.

At the time of writing, work on 4 of the 5 contracts for the sewerage of Histon, Impington, Girton, Great and Little Shelford and Stapleford has been completed, or is approaching completion. Some sewers are now available in parts of Girton, Impington, and Great Shelford, and the number of property owners requesting connection is encouraging. The remaining contract, No. 5, comprising the rest of Great Shelford and the parishes of Little Shelford and Stapleford has been prepared and is ready to go to tender as soon as the necessary Ministerial consent can be obtained.

The sewerage of Milton parish is virtually completed and it is hoped that the sewers will be available for use by May, 1953.

The scheme for sewerage Fulbourn village (given priority by the Council in order to safeguard the wells of the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company) has had to be split into 3 contracts in order to secure more favourable tenders and work is likely to proceed on Contract 1 in 1953.

Schemes prepared for the sewerage of Cottenham and Waterbeach are still awaiting Ministerial approval. Owing to the high water table and heavy clay soil prevailing over much of the district satisfactory drainage is often rendered extremely difficult particularly on Council house sites. Every effort is now made to confine development to those sites where either public sewers are available or where sewage disposal works can be constructed economically. In the last report 12 sites were listed providing a total of 458 existing or proposed houses where sewage disposal plants were contemplated. All these works have now been completed and at the time of writing sewage disposal works or public sewers have been provided or are in hand for the following additional sites:—

Cottenham	36	Horningsea	20
Comberton	60 (approx.)	Over	19
Dry Drayton	19	Great Shelford	174
Fen Ditton	20	Teversham	58
Haslingfield	51	Little Wilbraham	24

(A total of 481 existing or proposed dwellings.)

Tenders have also been invited for the connection of 28 existing Council houses at Milton and 72 at Great Shelford to the public sewers.

In general, therefore, the year has been one of considerable activity in this field and the progress being made is most encouraging.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

The Council continues to employ the services of a full time Pests Officer and one operator for the performance of the Council's duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. This work is carried out under the supervision of the public health department. A free service is given to all residential properties and other premises are treated on a recovery basis. The effect of the scheme is becoming apparent and the number of rats in the area has been considerably reduced. Furthermore the public are now quick to report the presence of any infestation and appreciate fully the services given. The availability of new poisons such as Warfarin and A.N.T.U. has rendered the task of rodent destruction much more effective and has reduced the amount of time necessary for treatment. Destruction of wasps, hornets, bats and moles, etc., for which a nominal charge is made, is also undertaken. The amount of survey work, particularly on agricultural property is not as great as one would wish but liaison with the Agricultural Executive Committee is maintained and effective coverage is provided throughout the district.

The cost of the service, after deduction of Ministry grants and recoverable expenditure is less than the product of a 1d. rate, a small price to pay for such a valuable contribution towards the elimination of damage and disease occasioned by these pests.

The following tables shows briefly a summary of the year's work:—

Type of Property					
	Local Authority	Dwellings	Agricultural	Business & Industrial Premises etc.	Total
Approximate total number of properties in area	20	11,614	1,000	500	13,134
Properties inspected as a result of notification of infestation	—	257	—	—	257
Properties inspected without notification of infestation	20	2,647	14	208	2,889
Number of properties found to be infested with rats					
<i>Major</i>	—	7	—	5	12
<i>Minor</i>	5	1,359	4	20	1,388
Number of properties found to be infested with mice	—	—	—	1	1
Number of infested properties treated by the Council	5	1,366	4	26	1,401
Number of notices served under Section 4 (treatment)	—	—	—	2	2
Number of 'block control' schemes carried out	—	6	—	—	6

It is interesting to record that the following results were achieved during the year:—

Number of rats recovered	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,927
Total estimated killed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,708
Number of wasps nests removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Number of hornets nests removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Treatment carried out for moles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

The Council's refuse tips, always a likely reservoir of infestation, are under constant surveillance and treatment and this procedure alone has made a great contribution towards the elimination of the rat population. With the full co-operation of the public there is no reason why this problem should not be finally eliminated.

FACTORIES

A summary of the work carried out under the Factories Act is appended below:—

Number of factories with mechanical power	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	112
Number of factories without mechanical power	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Inspections recorded	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	228
Notifications of outworkers received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Infected premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

As a result of action taken the following improvements have been recorded during the year:—

Mains water laid on	4
Structural improvements, etc.	7
Cleansing and/or redecoration	3
New, improved, or additional sanitary accommodation	3
New or improved drainage	2
Improved washing facilities	1

The number of outworkers in the area shows considerable reduction on last year's figures and the amount of light assembly work carried out in satellite premises in the villages has also declined. Very few premises in the area employ large numbers and no serious problem has arisen during the year.

The department is not responsible for the administration of Sections 34-37 of the Factories Act, 1937 (means of escape in case of fire).

Schools

Inspections and visits to schools	170
Improved or new sanitary accommodation	4
Mains water laid on	7
Drainage repaired or renewed	2
Improved washing facilities	2
Redecoration	5
New floors	1
Playground resurfaced	1
New schools	1

The importance of providing proper sanitary amenities in all schools, irrespective of size, has frequently been stressed in these Reports. Now that a piped water supply is available in every village it is hoped that special efforts will be made to derive full benefit from this amenity. It is noted, for example, that less than 35% of the schools in the district have flush lavatories. It is again emphasized that education in personal and food hygiene can only be taught if the requisite facilities are provided.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Only one factory in the area is engaged in the manufacture of new upholstered furniture using the specified materials and this has been duly registered. Other premises in the area used for repair and re-upholstering of furniture are exempt from the provisions of the Act, which is somewhat anomalous.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One private premises in the area qualifies for registration which has been effected. The animals and birds are merely kept at the premises for sale elsewhere. Conditions were far from satisfactory at first but gradual improvement is being effected, including the provision of new aviaries, etc. 8 visits were paid during the year mostly in company with an inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. with whom close liaison is maintained.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Milk Supply

Particular attention has again been given to the systematic sampling of milk supplies as delivered to the consumer, and the sampling of school milk on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Since the introduction of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944 the local authority has no responsibility for the supervision of milk production on the farm, this function now being exercised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries through the Local Agricultural Committees. There is no doubt that, through the determined efforts of the Local Committee in restraining the production of poor quality milk, there has been a very marked improvement in the general standard of milk

supplies. The work of the Committee is facilitated by the stronger measures available to them, including the cancellation of a producer's registration, previously denied the local authority. The efforts of the Milk Marketing Board through their joint Quality Control Committee in dealing with unsatisfactory supplies from non-designated producers are also proving effective in keeping up the standard.

The amount of raw milk sold is now very small and pasteurised milk (bottled) is almost universally available.

The following figures (supplied by courtesy of the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Executive Committee) indicate the position in this area at 31st December, 1952.

Number of Wholesale Producers in area	..	..	..	..	..	..	146
Number of Producer Retailers	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
Number of Retail Purveyors	..	..	..	..	..	..	18

Included in the above figures are 74 producers of Tuberculin Tested milk (37%) and 20 Accredited producers (10%). Of the 202 registered producers in the area, 47% now produce designated milk and approximately 67 herds (33%) are attested.

The following is a summary of the year's work in connection with the distribution of milk under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

Number of distributors with registered premises in the area	..	..	..	..	15
Number of distributors with premises outside the area	..	..	..	..	3
Visits paid to retail dairies	..	..	..	..	45
Licences issued to retail Pasteurised milk	..	..	..	..	18
Licences issued to retail T.T. milk	..	..	..	..	17
Licences issued to retail Sterilised milk	..	..	..	..	2
New dairies constructed	..	..	..	..	1

The retail premises in the area for which the Council is responsible are small and comply with the regulations. The position with regard to the responsibility for supervision of such premises is, however, most complicated and unsatisfactory. A distributor with a large retail business may produce a small proportion of milk on the premises, in which case the responsibility for registration and supervision of the dairy is the Agricultural Committee's. If he purchases and retails designated milks the responsibility for issuing the necessary licences and ensuring compliance with the Regulations is the local sanitary authority's. The position would be greatly improved if the supervision of all distribution and retail premises was the responsibility of the local authority leaving the production side to the Agricultural Committee.

Little, if any, loose milk is now retailed and the majority of retailers either bottle their own milk or purchase bottled milk for resale from the large firms outside the area. The consumer has, therefore, a choice of designated milks readily available, delivered under hygienic conditions. A high proportion of the milk is now pasteurised.

Milk Sampling

Sampling has been confined to milk as delivered to the consumer and schools. The samples have been examined bacteriologically and subjected to the prescribed tests if designated. Where appropriate, samples have been submitted for biological examination for evidence of tuberculosis or *Brucella abortus* (organism causing undulant fever in man). This work is carried out in close collaboration with the Public Health Laboratory Service and the Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The routine sampling of retailers' supplies shows that 19 samples out of 63 failed bacteriologically. 15 of the failures however, were from ungraded sources. Only 1 sample of Tuberculin Tested milk failed the prescribed test and 3 samples of Accredited milk. Of the 68 samples examined biologically 61 were found to be free from infection and 7 revealed evidence of *Brucella abortus*. No samples were found to be infected with tuberculosis which shows improvement on last year's figures, and is noted with satisfaction. The real problem with raw milk is still that of *Brucella abortus*. When found in a supply which is being retailed without heat treatment it is possible by means of an order under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 for the medical officer of health to divert the supply immediately for pasteurisation before sale. Unhappily there is no provision as yet for tracing and dealing effectively with the animals known to be secreting the organism. No authority exists for the compulsory removal or slaughter of the infected animals, and the diversion order may remain in force indefinitely. It has been the practice to follow up an infected bulk sample by group samples or even quarter samples from the cows in the herd. In some cases the infected cows have been

traced and removed with the co-operation of the farmers concerned. In other cases little success has been met with, either because a high proportion of the herd is found to be secreting the organism or the secretion is intermittent. In all cases however it was possible to secure heat treatment so as to ensure the safety of the supply without having recourse to making an order.

126 samples of school milks were taken of which 110 were satisfactory bacteriologically. 5 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk failed the prescribed tests and 3 samples of Pasteurised milk. 37 samples were submitted for biological examination. 33 were free from infection and 4 samples from T.T. herds revealed evidence of *Brucella abortus*. Alternative supplies were arranged in these cases, pending further investigation. The standard achieved for Pasteurised milk supplied to the schools was consistently high, only 3 samples (3.5%) failing the phosphatase test.

Category	Bacteriological Examination			Biological Examination			Brucella Abortus
	Samples Taken	No. Passing Test	No. Failing	No. of Samples Submitted	Free from Infection	Positive T.B.	
ROUTINE SAMPLING	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tuberculin Tested	8	7	1	16	14	—	2
Accredited	12	9	3	10	8	—	2
Ungraded	43	28	15	42	39	—	3
Totals	63	44	19	68	61	—	7
ADDITIONAL SAMPLING AFTER UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES AT FARMS	—	—	—	61	56	—	5
SCHOOL MILKS							
Tuberculin Tested	35	30	5	37	33	—	4
Pasteurised	88*	77	3	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	126	110	8	37	33	—	4
ADDITIONAL SAMPLING AFTER UNSATISFACTORY SCHOOL SAMPLES (AT FARMS)	—	—	—	100	78	—	22
TOTAL OF ALL SAMPLES	189	154	27	266	228	—	38

*8 samples were not tested owing to atmospheric shade temperature exceeding 65°.

Bakehouses

Number of bakehouses in Register	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Inspections recorded	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59

There has been some deterioration in the standard of these premises during the year which in part may be attributable to the difficulties at present being experienced by the bakery trade generally. The advent of the cut and wrapped loaf baked by large concerns outside the area and readily available in grocery and general stores, together with the small margin of profit available to the small bakers, has resulted in a loss of interest and more difficulty has been experienced in encouraging the maintenance of good hygienic conditions. One bakery has been closed and one new bakehouse built during the year to replace unsatisfactory premises. In addition the following improvements have been noted:—

Premises redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Structural repairs or improvements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
New floors, ceilings, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
New equipment, troughs, vans, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Improved ventilation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
New flour store	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Three bakeries have bread slicing and wrapping machines, although the cost of operation is high and likely to prove prohibitive. Of the 19 premises remaining on the register 9 are either of recent construction or have been substantially reconstructed during the last few years. All the old unsatisfactory premises have been eliminated.

PRESERVED FOOD PREMISES (Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938)

Total number on register 31.12.52	123	Visits paid	240
Manufacturers of Sausages	24		78
Fish Fryers	7		26
Sale only of Ice Cream	91		135
Tripe Dressing and Boiling	1		1

As a result of action by the inspectors since 1946 the older premises have been brought up to the requisite standard and new registrations have not been made unless the premises have been satisfactory. Adequate washing facilities, including a constant hot water supply are considered essential. No cases of food poisoning occurred which could be attributable to food prepared in the district.

Nevertheless, improvements have been effected during the year as follows:—

Sausage Making Premises

Structural improvements, resurfacing of walls and floors, etc.	.. .. .	2
Redecoration .. .. .	.. .. .	9

Fish Frying Premises

Improved lighting .. .. .	.. .. .	1
New ranges and fittings .. .. .	.. .. .	1
Improved washing facilities .. .. .	.. .. .	1
Redecoration .. .. .	.. .. .	1

Ice Cream Premises (Sale only)

Mains water laid on .. .. .	.. .. .	4
Washing facilities new or improved .. .. .	.. .. .	6
New drainage .. .. .	.. .. .	1
Structural improvements or extensions .. .. .	.. .. .	3
Redecoration .. .. .	.. .. .	13
New fittings—refrigerators, etc. .. .. .	.. .. .	2

There are no premises in the area registered for the manufacture of ice cream. The number of premises registered for its sale continues to increase however. The sale of loose ice cream has virtually disappeared as, indeed, have the street vendors and sales are largely confined to prepacked ice cream, prepared by reputable manufacturers outside the district. No problems have arisen during the year with regard to the service of ice cream and the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 have been well met. The following table shows the results of samples during the year:—

ICE CREAM SAMPLES FROM RETAILERS 1952

Total samples taken	38
Samples in Category 1	21
" " " 2	12
" " " 3	5
" " " 4	Nil

The samples are subjected to the prescribed methylene blue test for bacteriological cleanliness and it will be seen that 33 samples (87%) fell within Categories 1 and 2 and 5 (13%) in Category 3. None were in Category 4. These results are extremely satisfactory and may be partly due to the disappearance of some of the small manufacturers in favour of the larger firms whose products are of a uniformly high standard.

FOOD SHOPS, CAFES AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES

Recorded visits during 1952 were as follows:—

Butchers Shops	110
Cafes and Restaurants	128
Other Food Stores, N.A.A.F.I.'S, etc.	4
Retail Dairies	45
Miscellaneous visits to food shops, etc.	220

As much time as possible is devoted to the supervision of food premises and the enforcement of the Ministry of Food Byelaws adopted in 1950. Naturally in a rural district of this kind there are few premises catering for large numbers apart from factory canteens and the school meals service. In general the standard of catering premises is good and the managements quite co-operative. Mains water supplies are available throughout the district and adequate washing facilities are insisted upon together with hygienic storage of perishable foodstuffs. One or two of the transport cafes on the main trunk roads require modernisation and better sanitary accommodation for the public. These matters are in hand. It is interesting to note that according to the latest Food Office figures the following catering licences are in force in the area:—

Cafes and restaurants (full catering licences)	17
Cafes (snacks only)	2
Public Houses (full catering licences)	3
Public Houses (snacks only)	74
Clubs etc., with full catering licences	—
Clubs etc (teas and snacks only)	18
Residential establishments (full catering licences)	10
Factory canteens (full catering licences)	10
School canteens (full catering licences)	14
Total number of licences in force	148

It is to be regretted that premises such as these are not subject to registration by the local authority before trading is commenced since it is much easier to secure the required standards at the outset than after the premises have been brought into use. By arrangement with the Local Food Office information regarding the proposed issue of licenses is given to the department in order that the premises can be inspected before they are put into use. Since the Food Office cannot refuse a licence because the premises are found to be unsuitable this arrangement does not have the success desirable and sometimes information is received tardily. Only by a system of registration can any real achievement be made in this field.

As a result of informal action during the year the following improvements have been effected:—

Cafes and Restaurants

New cafes established	1
Redecoration	2
New crockery and utensils	1

Other Food Premises

Mains water laid on	8
Structural improvements	13
Redecoration	23
New fittings (refrigerators, etc.)	6
New Drainage	1
Improved washing facilities	9
New premises provided	1

LICENSED PREMISES

Since the survey carried out in 1946 of all licensed premises, the general standard of these houses has been raised very considerably. Efforts have been concentrated in securing adequate glass washing facilities, decent sanitary accommodation for the public of both sexes, and good drainage. The Brewers have co-operated to the fullest extent possible having regard to the licensing restrictions and with the exception of a few houses which are obviously uneconomical by virtue of the small trade carried on, or can only be improved by substantially rebuilding, the premises are generally satisfactory. The majority have catering licences for snacks and often full meals. The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year and the improvements recorded:—

Total number of licensed premises in the area	..	..	..	..	..	..	154
Number of visits recorded	..	..	..	..	..	..	152
Premises reconstructed or substantially improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
New or improved sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
New or improved drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Mains water laid on	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Improved glass washing facilities	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Constant supply of hot water provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
New beer engines, service cabinets, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Redecoration	..	..	..	..	..	..	13

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat for the whole of the Council's area is supplied from government slaughter-houses and depots in Cambridge. Judging by the condition of the home-killed meat sent into the area the standard of slaughtering is poor and the craftsmanship apparent in the days when local butchers killed their own beasts is seldom met with. All meat has to be transported into the area and often long journeys are involved. If centralised slaughtering is to remain in some form, as seems likely, the transport aspect needs careful consideration. Although deterioration of the meat, so often experienced during and just after the war, is no longer as serious, the present system and vehicles employed can surely be improved. It should be possible to use vehicles adapted for this work, lined out with impervious material and so designed as to avoid stacking the meat, which should all be hung.

Slaughtering in the area has been confined to a few casualty animals and privately owned pigs. Twelve slaughterhouses are licensed for this purpose and routine inspection of the carcasses is made where notification is received. No difficulty has been experienced during the year in securing possession and disposal of any unfit meat discovered. It would be helpful if notification of slaughter was obligatory whether or not the meat was intended for sale.

The use of one slaughter house, licensed for the slaughter of horse for human consumption, has been discontinued. (205 horses were killed in 1949.)

Visits paid to slaughter houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Visits paid to butchers premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110
Slaughter houses improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Butchers shops improved and/or redecorated.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Licences to slaughter renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
New licences issued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total on Register 31.12.52	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29

The requirements of the Act with regard to humane slaughter are complied with on all licensed premises and formal action was unnecessary during the year. There is still no control over the slaughter on private premises of animals not intended for sale.

UN SOUND FOODSTUFFS

All traders are encouraged to seek the advice of the department where doubt exists regarding the fitness of any article for human consumption and a good relationship exists in this respect. Small quantities of unsound tinned goods are mostly returned to the wholesale suppliers and dealt with in bulk and the amount of unfit food found on inspection is small, most commodities being subject to inspection prior to entry into the district.

The condition of meat showed some improvement although spoilage due to bruising, heating and bad handling during slaughter and transport is still higher than necessary. Little disease was encountered.

The following is an abridged summary of foodstuffs condemned during the year:—

Home Killed Meat

Beef	226 lbs.
Pork	128 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
Mutton	16 lbs.

Imported Meat

Lambs livers	143 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
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Tinned Goods

Vegetables	1 tin
Milk	21 tins
Fruit	34 tins
Soup	10 tins
Fish	28 tins

Other Foods

15 stones of Cod Steaks
 21 lbs. of Tea
 18 lbs. of Dehydrated Pineapple.

